

38. (New) A shaped knit in accordance with claim 37, wherein said groups of partial courses comprise at least four successive groups of partial courses interspersed with courses of said second plurality and wherein the extent to which wales span a first one and a third one of said at least four successive groups of partial courses is less than extent to which wales span a second one and a fourth one of said at least four successive groups of partial courses.

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REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 13 have been replaced with new claims 17-38 and it is believed that the new claims are not open to rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over GB 469998 (hereafter GB '998).

The present invention is concerned with a three-dimensional knit having several advantages over a conventional three-dimensional knit. Specifically, in accordance with the invention, a three-dimensional knit has a plurality of locations at which a two-dimensional knit is deformed. In accordance with claim 17, the deformations comprise widening or narrowing loops and the deformation regions are distributed over the portion of the knit with a substantially uniform density. The deformation regions are small and the degree of deformation is not controlled by the size of the deformation regions but by the density of the deformation regions.

Referring to claim 22, when loops are narrowed, one transfers loops from an outer region of the needle bed towards the center thereof. At the boundary between the regions where loops are transferred and not transferred either a wale is terminated or two adjacent wales are hung together. When widening loops, one provides new wales by hanging old loops at least on one side of the new wale to the outside of the needle bed. Fig. 1 of GB '998 shows clearly that no loops are transferred either towards the center of the needle bed or

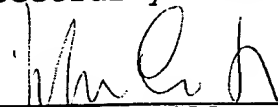
towards the outside of the needle bed. In GB '998 size reduction is obtained by the inactivation of single needles. Thus, GB '998 does not disclose or suggest the idea of forming multiple deformation regions with widening or narrowing loops, particularly when the deformation regions are distributed over the portion of the knit affected by the deformation regions with a substantially uniform density.

It is therefore submitted that claims 17 and 22 are patentable and it follows that the dependent claims 18-21 and 23-28 also are patentable.

Claim 29 is concerned with a shaped knit produced by the selective inactivation of needles of a knitting machine. In accordance with claim 33, the deformation regions of the shaped knit comprise partial courses, as may be provided by inactivating needles, that are substantially equispaced with respect to the other courses of the knit. GB '998 shows a fashioning region in which there are four courses at which needles are inactivated. Over courses 1-4, in each bed there is one inactive needle for every two needles that are active. In course 5, one out of every two inactive needles in the lower bed is rendered active while the other bed remains the same as in courses 1-4. In course 9, the lower bed remains the same as in courses 5-8 but two out of every four inactive needles in the upper needle bed are rendered active. In course 13, the upper needle bed remains the same as in courses 9-12 but all needles of the lower needle bed are rendered active, and at course 17, all needles of the upper bed are rendered active. GB '998 does not disclose or suggest the details related to the formation of the second portion of the knit of claims 29 and 33 and does not disclose or suggest that the portion of the knit in which selected needles are in the inactive state over at least one course should be between two portions of the knit with all the needles in the active state.

It is therefore submitted that claims 29 and 33 are patentable and it follows that the dependent claims 30-32 and 34-38 also are patentable.

Respectfully submitted,



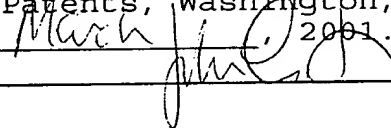
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Friedrich ROELL

Application No: 09/619,842

Filed: July 20, 2000



Art Unit: 3765

Examiner:
L. Worrell, Jr.For: METHOD OF PRODUCING A THREE-
DIMENSIONAL KNIT AND TEXTILE
MATERIAL PRODUCED THEREBYSCHEDULE OF AMENDMENTS

The paragraph beginning on page 1, line 21, rewrite as follows:

[This object is achieved in accordance with the invention by a method as it reads from claims 1 and 6. Advantageous further embodiments of the invention read from the corresponding sub-claims. The object is achieved furthermore by a textile material produced by any of the claims of the method.] The invention relates more particularly to the production of industrial textiles.

The paragraph beginning on page 6, line 13, rewrite as follows:

In the construction as shown in Fig. 1 the needles are inactivated in a first short portion 12, covering for example only 20 needles. In a later portion, i.e. a couple of courses further, the loops are inactivated in a portion 14 extending over the full width b of the shaped portion. Inactivation in this case would involve e.g. 60 needles. Again a couple of courses later, the needles are activated over a width 13 located between the two widths as cited above, e.g. for 40 needles. The deformation points 11 are thus homogeneously distributed over the deformation width b. The inactivated portions 12, 14, 16 are always alternated with fully knitted portions 18 in which the knit is produced over the full width, resulting in more or less equispacing of the points [21] 11 in

the interlooping direction. Running through the middle of the knit 10 is a portion 20 which is fully knitted, whilst furthermore outwards a portion 22 extends in which the knit already comprises non-knitted courses at a spacing of several courses. These non-knitted portions widen in the outward direction as is easily appreciated from the drawing. When now envisaging the knitted portions 18 being joined to each other at their top and bottom edges, it will readily be appreciated that the knit as illustrated in Fig. 1 is roughly spherical in shape. Each inactivation 12, 14, 16 runs in the knit over two courses in sequence. It is, of course, just as possible to directly attach various inactivated portions 12, 14, 16 to each other without any fully knitted portions inbetween in wanting to achieve stronger shaping. The degree of shaping is set by the spacing, i.e. the sequence of the inactivations and the width of the inactivation portions 12, 14, 16. Thus, the wider the inactivation portions and inactivation sequence, the stronger is also the shaping.

The paragraph beginning on page 7, line 36, rewrite as follows:

To get round this disadvantage the widening in accordance with the invention is not done in a portion 30, as shown in Fig. 2, but at five different locations 50, 52, 54, 56, 58 (Fig. 3) at each of which a loop is split up into two loops and subsequently recombined into a single loop. The splitting duration for the five locations differs, so that a homogeneous distribution of the widening/narrowing locations within the knit exists. Furthermore, between the widening/narrowing [portions] locations 50, 52, 54, 56, 58 fully knitted wales 60 are arranged serving to enhance the [homogeneity] homogeneity of the knit throughout the complete shaped portion.